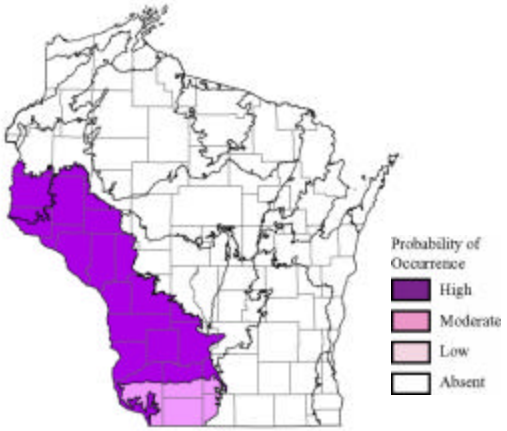
Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	4
State threats:	4
State population trend:	4
Global abundance:	4
Global distribution:	3
Global threats:	4
Global population trend:	4
Mean Risk Score:	3.9
Area of importance:	3

* Please see the Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries (Section 3.1.1) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations
Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Southwest Savanna	Dry prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Cedar glade
Western Coulee and Ridges	Dry cliff
Western Coulee and Ridges	Dry prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Oak opening
Western Coulee and Ridges	Oak woodland
Western Coulee and Ridges	Pine relict
Western Coulee and Ridges	Sand prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Southern dry forest
Western Coulee and Ridges	Southern dry-mesic forest
Western Coulee and Ridges	Southern mesic forest

Threats and Issues

- Quarry operations destroy dens and result in direct mortality of this species.
- Natural succession of goat prairies, especially those with exposed limestone rock outcroppings, reduces habitat for this species.
- Agricultural equipment-related mortality, especially haying in late summer.
- Development of bluffland areas threatens this species.
- Bounties used in the past and other eradication efforts, including illegal collecting for pet trade and artifacts, and human persecution threaten this species.
- Habitat degradation from red cedar invasion of goat prairies threatens this species.
- Increased road building to accommodate urban sprawl leads to more road mortality, especially where there are dens nearby.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Closing denning areas to public access on public lands may reduce poaching.
- Permanent protection of remaining viable dens and associated summer range habitat is needed.
- Habitat management is needed to reverse negative effects of natural succession on den and nursery areas and bluff prairie habitat in general.
- Bluffland zoning regulations are needed to protect rare habitats and dependent species.
- Major strides in policy and education are needed to ensure that wildlife habitat is adequately represented and considered in zoning and planning decisions.
- Landowner education is needed to help increase prairie habitat restoration efforts on private lands.
- Partnerships with universities and colleges are needed to accomplish research needs, including expanded radio telemetry studies to advance understanding of summer range needs and to determine the impacts of fragmentation and natural succession of disturbed den populations and compare these to intact sites.
- Long term monitoring is needed to evaluate population status and track trends of representative populations.
- Partnering with prairie restoration groups like The Prairie Enthusiasts will help accomplish land management more efficiently.